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DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN SOVIET LITHUANIA

The textile industry in Lithuania was overhauled and centralized after the establishment of Soviet authority in 1940. A rapid rise in the production of various cloth goods resulted. For example, woolen production within a 5-month period in 1941 equaled the total annual production by privately owned factories in 1939. The productive capacity of the linen industry in 1941 was 1 1/2 times greater than in 1940. There was an eightfold increase in the production of cotton cloth in 1940 alone.

The war interrupted work on the reconstruction of the textile industry in Soviet Lithuania. During the German occupation, the Lithuanian textile factories were heavily exploited, and when the Germans withdrew, they did their best to cause these mills the maximum possible damage. Equipment was removed from many factories, and other were burned. After Soviet Lithuania was liberated from the German oppressors, a planned reconstruction of the textile industry was initiated.

Cotton

The decision was taken to create new cotton-spinning facilities. The "Trinichay" Factory in the town of Klaypeda was converted from a spinning and weaving factory to a spinning factory. New Soviet machines and techniques were introduced. The output of cotton yarn did not begin until 1947, but by 1950 the "Trinichay" Factory was already producing many times more yarn than before the war, although it had not yet reached capacity production.

In 1951, production of cotton yarn will be 13 times greater than in 1947. Production of combed yarn for the republic's hosiery factories will begin in 1951. All yarn will be wound on conical bobbins. Shops will soon be built to process yarn from dyed cotton. This yarn will be used in the knitted-wear and woollen industries. Thanks to new weaving techniques and equipment, the output of cotton cloth has increased. The prewar level of cotton cloth production has already been surpassed by a substantial margin. Further development of cotton cloth production is largely contingent upon the continued increase in weaving capacity.

- 2 -

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Silk

In 1949, the output of silk cloth had already reached the prewar level. In 1950, this record was almost tripled. In 1951, the output of silk cloth will have increased almost elevenfold in comparison with 1946.

The "Kauno-Aužinyai" Collective Silk Factory has recently had great success in increasing the quality of its production. In the past year (1950), production of first-grade cloth increased 32 percent over 1949 production levels. Production of crepe and printed cloth has greatly increased in the last 2 years. The available supply of jacquard tools has been increased, resulting in an increase in the output of linen for women's dresses.

A further increase in the capacity of the silk industry is planned by means of increasing production floor space.

Linen

The "Linu-Audinyai," "Syulas," and "Mastis" Linen Factories have been re-fitted with powerful machinery; subsequently they will be converted to knitted-goods production.

The "Linu-Audinyai" Factory has a considerable amount of free floor space which could be utilized for installation of additional weaving and spinning machinery. Therefore, it is possible to expand the productive capacity of the linen industry with a relatively small additional capital investment. Lithuania has traditionally been a linen-producing center. Therefore, the production of linen goods may be rapidly expanded through utilization of local raw materials. During the last Five-Year Plan, the linen industry substantially increased its production of linen goods. In 1950, the industry produced almost 15 times as much cloth as in 1945.

Wool

Reconstruction of wool factories began immediately after the war. By the end of 1949, all the Lithuanian wool industry was concentrated in several large enterprises.

Installation of equipment in the "Drobe" Factory began at the end of 1950. In addition to the production of worsted cloth, this factory was charged with supplying worsted yarn for local production of knitted outer garments. This factory alone accounted for 60 percent of the cloth output of wool factories in Lithuania in 1939. In 1949 - 1950, the wool industry improved the quality and assortment of woven cloth and finishing techniques. In addition, almost all wool factories were enlarged, and the disposition of equipment was rationalized in the interest of greater efficiency.

All wool factories will be equipped with bur extractors, lint removers, and skutching machines by mid-1951. Almost all factories will be equipped to carbonate wool and dye thread. A completely modern cloth-finishing technique has been introduced. All these factories are to have their floor space increased by expansion and new construction.

A new building has been added to the "Nyamunas" Coarse-Cloth Factory in the town of Yedupa. This factory was located in a wooden building with ramshackle, rotting columns and a sagging roof. The workers of the factory decided to construct a new building themselves. They worked on this project daily under the guidance of the factory director, and finished the stone framework of the new building in a single construction season. In 1950, funds for similar construction were included in the republic budget. Equipment was being installed in the

- 2 -

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new floor space thus created at the year's end. The "Nyamunas" Factory produces only semifinished material which is fully processed in the "Laysve" Factory. When the new building which is to house the "Nyamunas" Factory is completed, this factory will be able to finish its own cloth.

Woolen-cloth production in 1951 will be five times that of 1946. Until 1950, the quality of woolen cloth produced was low. Not one factory fulfilled plan requirements in production of first-grade cloth. In 1950, all factories fulfilled planned production of first-grade products. In 1950, production of first-grade cloth was up 26.6 percent over 1948.

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- 3 -

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